

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Attention: News Editor

### **Medal search starts**

Community groups and individuals with an interest in natural resource management are invited to join the search for the next recipient of the GSDC Medal.

The medal, awarded biennially by the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC), honours best practice and innovative contributions by individuals and couples working in NRM for the benefit of the Great Southern.

Recent winners of the medal have included world leader in seagrass restoration Geoff Bastyan, south coast dieback educator and innovator Gary Muir, and weed control specialist John Moore.

Nominations for the 2018/19 medal are now open.

Information on how to nominate an individual or couple is available on the GSDC website [www.gsdc.wa.gov.au](http://www.gsdc.wa.gov.au) through a link on the home page.

Nominations close at 4.30pm on Wednesday 19 December.

Following assessment of all nominations, three finalists will be shortlisted by a panel of peers convened by the GSDC.

The NRM work of each finalist will be assessed by the selection panel, and the winner of the GSDC Medal will be announced at a gala dinner in March 2019.

The winner receives a sterling silver medal and a \$5,000 grant to further their NRM work. The two runner-up finalists each receive a \$1,000 grant to further their work.

World-leading seagrass restoration pioneer Geoff Bastyan was awarded the 2016 GSDC Medal and said it was a gratifying acknowledgement of his efforts in habitat restoration.

"This award has enabled me to finalise and document the numerous years of work relating to Oyster Harbour's seagrass recovery," Mr Bastyan said.

"I am aware of so many people equally worthy of this award for ecosystem restoration, and encourage all to nominate such advocates for our environment for the 2018/19 GSDC Medal."



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GSDC Chair Ross Thornton said the award reflected the Commission's strategic commitment to sound management of the region's natural resources.

"Past medal recipients include people who have shown their peers how to restore damaged ecosystems, how to work with natural resources to be more productive and how to maintain the exceptional natural qualities of our region," Mr Thornton said.

"We invite people to take the time to nominate anyone they know who has a record of achievement in similar activities, and we look forward to meeting the next recipient of the medal."

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